



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 341 • Boise, Idaho 83709
(208) 378-5333 • FAX (208) 378-5339

Contact: Craig Tabor or Scott Kabasa, 208-378-5333

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FOUR WOLVES ILLEGALLY KILLED, \$5,000 REWARD OFFERED

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking information about four gray wolves that were found dead between October and November in Idaho. The Service and Defenders of Wildlife are offering rewards of \$5,000 per wolf for information leading to an arrest or conviction in any case.

All the wolves appeared to have been shot, and their carcasses have been sent to the Service's National Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, for further analysis.

Investigators indicate that the wolves were found in various areas. The first wolf was recovered in mid-October near the Gold Fork Park-n-Ski Area on the Boise National Forest near Idaho City. Another wolf was found dead in the Partridge Creek area on the Payette National Forest near Riggins, and it is estimated that animal had been killed sometime between late October and early November. Two other wolves were shot between late October and early November. Law enforcement agents recovered one of these animals in the Council area, near Weasel Gulch on the Payette National Forest, and the other at Mountain Meadows on the Boise National Forest near Stanley.

The killing of an animal protected under the Endangered Species Act is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year in jail. Service law enforcement officials ask that anyone with information about any of these illegal killings or others, please contact the Office of Law Enforcement at 208-378-5333. Callers may remain anonymous.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 544 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

